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42. (New) A method as claimed in claim 41, wherein the outer layer is formed from thermoplastic plastics material containing the at least one substance and co-extruded with the remainder of the material forming said structure.

43. (New) A method as claimed in claim 35 wherein the compounded plastics extrudate contains a coupling agent and/or a nucleating agent in amounts of from 1 to 3 wt% and 0.1 to 2 wt% respectively. - -

REMARKS

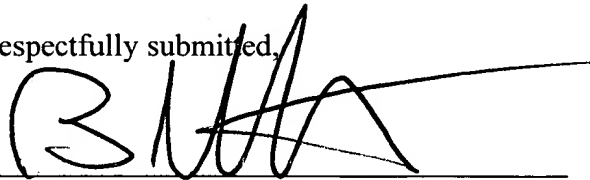
Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is hereby respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant respectfully petitions the Commissioner for any extension of time necessary to render this paper timely.

Please charge any fees due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0694.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX A - - MARKED UP VERSIONS SHOWING AMENDMENTS

SPECIFICATION

The following amendments were requested in items (71) and (75) of the specification.

- - (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): MITIE PLASTICS LIMITED [GB/GB]; [1 Bell Street, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 1BU] Trinity Street, Off Tat Bank Road, Oldbury, West Midlands B69 4LA (GB). - -

- - (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): SMITH, James, Leonard [GB/-]; [Smith Street, P.O. Box 166, St. Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 1EZ] The Penthouse, 19 Japonica House, Woburn Hill Park, Weybridge KT16 2NZ (GB). - -

CLAIMS

- - 3. (Amended) An element as claimed in claim 1 [or 2], which has a ratio of flexural modulus [(in Megapascals)] to density [(in kg/m³)] of at least 2.5:1.

5. (Amended) An element as claimed in [any preceding] claim 1, which comprises from 30-90 wt% of thermoplastic polymer and 25-50 wt% of an elastic modulus increasing material.

6. (Amended) An element as claimed in [any preceding] claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic polymer is polyethylene, polypropylene or polyethylene terephthalate.

8. (Amended) An element as claimed in [any preceding] claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic plastics material is a recycled material.

9. (Amended) An element as claimed in [any preceding] claim 1 which contains glass fibres as an elastic modulus increasing material.

12. (Amended) An element as claimed in claim 9[, 10 or 11,] wherein the glass fibres are oriented in planes parallel to a load bearing surface thereof.

13. (Amended) An element as claimed in [any preceding] claim 1, which has compounded with the thermoplastic plastics material at least one [or more] substance[s] selected from fire retardants, UV stabilisers and/or friction increasers.

14. (Amended) An element as claimed in [any preceding] claim 1 which has at least one [or more] substance[s] selected from fire retardants, UV stabilisers and/or friction increasers present in an outer layer which has a thickness of up to 1 mm.

15. (Amended) An element as claimed in claim 14, wherein the outer layer is formed from thermoplastics material containing [said substance(s)]the at least one substance and co-extruded with the remainder of the material forming said element.

16. (Amended) An element as claimed in [any preceding] claim 1, which has a co-extruded outer layer which has anti-slip character.

17. (Amended) An element as claimed in [any preceding] claim 1 wherein the compounded thermoplastic plastics material contains a coupling agent and/or a nucleating agent in amounts of from 1 to 3 wt% and 0.1 to 2 wt% respectively. - -

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